

NORTHERN CHRONICLE



Alice Tang and Sophia Schuster at the club expo. Photo By Siegfried Wu (10/10/18)

FUN AND LEARNING AT THE CLUB EXPO

BY MEEKA ASHE

On October 10th, 2018, Northern Academy of the Arts underwent its third annual club expo. Along with some of our first year clubs, new additions were also made. A few of these new clubs include the Lion and Dragon Dancing, Chorus, Soccer, and Woodworking.

Older clubs have also expanded. The DIY club, (run by Lien Smedsrud), gathered around thirty new members. Dafa, Dance, and Music club remain the most joined clubs to date (in this respective order).

One of the main attributes of the club expo was that many of the clubs served some sort of treat.

They gave out candy, origami, cookies, even tea!

A few clubs were missing this year. Food club was replaced by the up-and-coming Cooking club. Debate club is also gone this year. These clubs were canceled for various reasons- lack of interest, a lack of funds, and some from lack of leadership.

"I thought the club expo was great!" said Tammi Okamura, Grade 7, Music track. While most people agreed that the club expo was a fun experience, many people also said it was a little loud and chaotic. The students agreed that next year's expo could be improved with some added structure.

In the words of Sacia Ashe, it was a "thoroughly enjoyable experience." Even if you didn't decide to sign up for any clubs, you still got to spend time with your friends and look at all kinds of different clubs.

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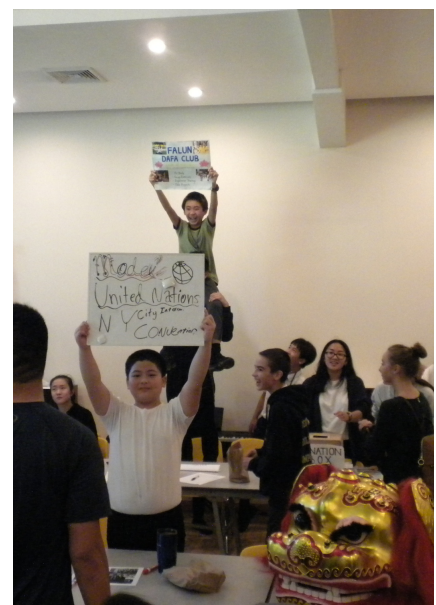
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WRITER, TEACHER,
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WINNING JOURNALIST**



Students at the club expo. Photo By Siegfried Wu (10/10/18)

RELAXING AND LAUGHING IN A MOVING CASTLE

BY ANGELA LAM-LI

As students bustled about during their everyday schedule, a flash of what looked like... a tail rushed by. It was the Student Council President, Isabelle Wu in her character onesie, dressed up as Stitch from Disney's cartoon film, Lilo and Stitch. As time goes by and the end of eighth period comes to an end, more and more students are transformed from their uniformed plaid skirt and navy trousers, into cats, a bundle of grapes, matching ketchup and mustard bottles, and even Lady Gaga graced the presence of Northern Academy students. The day of the Campfire Event was here.

Planned by the Student Council, the ninth of November was decided upon as the day for a cozy, campfire activity. As the night crew chillier, students rushed excitedly into the cafeteria to set up cozy blankets and pillows, and purchase fall-themed snacks ranging from smores, to cookies, to ramen. Within half-an-hour, the cafeteria had turned into a cozy and comforting environment for students to relieve the week's stress, and Studio Ghibli's Howl's Moving Castle film illuminated the eager faces of middle-schoolers, and the content faces of high schoolers. "It took us a lot of time and patience to organize everything for like a month. My head hurt after each meeting! But it was worth it when you see the students happy and with a smile", said Isabelle Wu (Grade 12, Fine Arts Track, and Student Council President).

A costume contest was also held between students prior to the showing of the film. The finalists, contestants, and winners were all decided by students. Traditional voting ballots were replaced with an enthusiastic cheer-o-meter. Junko Takahashi (Grade 7, Dance Track), Fiona Ji (Grade 11, Dance Track), and other eager contestants were hailed as the finalists through resounding cheers, claps, and shouts. Victory was eventually rewarded to Junko Takahashi and Fiona Ji, who went as a hot dog and a bundle of grapes (respectively). "My old school never did this so I finally got to make my own costume, and I was happy to get a free hot chocolate when I won!", said Fiona Ji.

Student volunteers helped to move tables and chairs out of the cafeteria in order to clear out space for the blankets and pillows, and also to help set up and serve food. "The food was really good. I had the kimchi ramen and one of the homemade cookies and I loved it.", said Fiona Ji, (Grade 11, Dance Track). Yuyang Jiang (Grade 10, Dance Track) and Lotusie Nguyen (Grade 10, Dance Track) commented, "The fancy cookies were really good."

Unfortunately, the rainy weather of the day caused for the previously planned activities to be cancelled.

[Continued on next page]

FIRST OPEN HOUSE OF THE YEAR!

BY FIONA JI

On Sunday, October 21st, 2018, Northern Academy of the Arts hosted its first open house of the year. Preparation for the event had been in the works since the beginning of the year; dance track students from levels three and four had been tirelessly rehearsing their group number while

musicians were often heard through the halls, perfecting their pieces for the performance. Final preparations were made just hours before the event. Tables were set up and draped in royal blue cloth in anticipation of the guests who would soon be coming in to register for the visit and an array of delicious pastries and drinks were laid out. Student ambassadors specially chosen to represent the school began taking up their positions, ready to help the day run smoothly. As parents started walking through the front door, their faces lit up at the sight of the students in their sharp uniforms. Students handed them their name tags and direct them to the large dance classroom where the performance would be taking place. Soloists Daniel Cui on the piano and Amber Wang on the pipa delighted the audience with their skillfully played pieces. The dance piece that followed, *Towards Compassion*, brought laughter to both parents and children alike, demonstrating the importance of kindness.

Student ambassadors were ready to bring visitors on a tour of the school after the performance. They recited information regarding each classroom and facility. Lily Li, a tenth grade music track student who served as an ambassador, described how she felt about the event by stating:

"I felt that the open house really showcased our school and our talents to everyone who attended."

Students who had performed earlier congratulated each other on another job well done while grabbed snacks that the school offered. The relatively small number of visitors and organizers compared to previous years made the whole day a calm, friendly gathering rather than a rigid marketing event.

[relaxing and laughing in a moving castle continued]

For example, the smores were unable to be toasted over a warm and eye catching fire, and students would not be able to add the sight of a real fire to the experience, but the loud bursts of laughter at the movie and excited whispering among students proved that the event had been a success nonetheless. “We’re glad events like these can provide the students time for themselves during their busy schedules, especially since our schedule here is demanding.”, Anna Yan (Grade 12, Dance Track). “My feet hurt.” Daniel Cui (Grade 12, Music Track) chipped in jokingly, in regards to running around serving food all night.

The campfire allowed students to relax on a typically jam-packed Friday night. The following long weekend came just in time for students and staff alike to stay late without the worry of classes the following morning. The rare opportunity was greatly appreciated by all.



*Megan and Shan Shan at the campfire.
Photo By Tian Zhen Xiong (11/9/18)*

WRITING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

BY SACIA ASHE

Marcotte began her journey as a journalist when she wrote her first article in high school, an op-ed on the Vietnam war. She went on to win two awards for her work-

an agriculture award that she won after writing an article about onion production, and an award for a piece on the arts.

She went on to be a college-level journalism teacher, and has recently begun to teach high school level English at Northern Academy of the Arts.

When asked about her writing process, Marcotte warns, “It’s very messy. You start out and you don’t know what your angle is, and you don’t know what to do ... It’s a messy process.” She usually starts out with an idea for a topic, which she flushes out through levels of research, interviews, and talking to people with the opposite point of view. “You kind of just wade through the words and the interviews and you just start to put it down.”

Marcotte believes that the skills developed by young writers through the academic writing process are critical, especially in our modern age. “This kind of skill is still important... And you have to nail the grammar.” When asked about how young writers could develop these basic writing skills, she stresses the importance of grammar and continual learning.

“Try writing news articles- be aware of your audience, and write! Learn your craft,” she urges enthusiastically.

Even for writers interested in fiction writing, Marcotte believes non-fiction writing will develop skills needed across the board. Marcotte thinks that college is important for budding journalists to consider. Although she feels that many journalism programs have “gone off track, focusing more on opinion than fact”, a humanities program focusing on English will prove to be immensely useful.

She notes that nowadays there is a diverse array of online journalism courses available,

however she feels that a liberal arts school is still the best opportunity for learning to write.

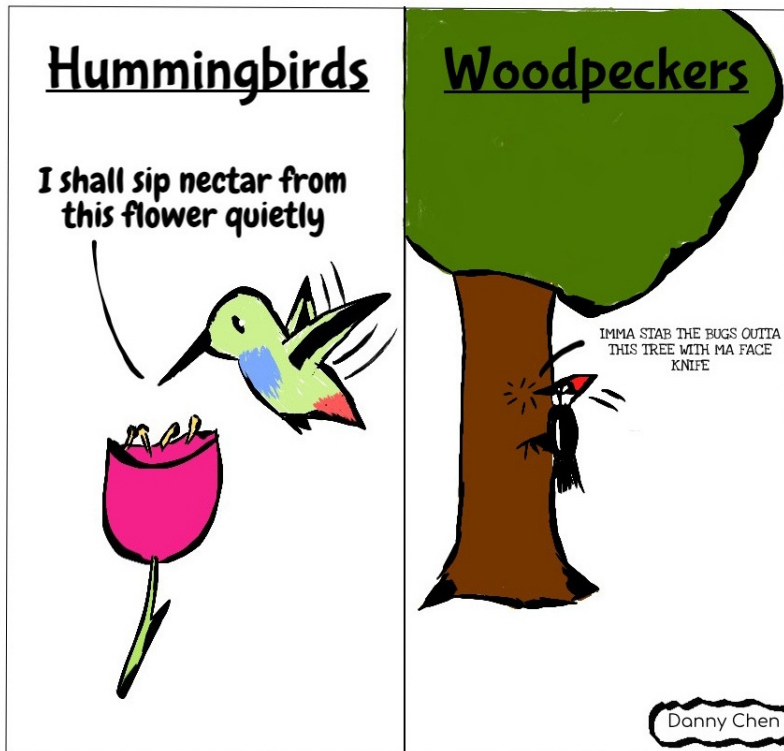
A liberal arts education gives a holistic understanding of the humanities, like English, History, and language classes, which Marcotte says help teach you about “writing, life, and the meaningful questions.” Marcotte has years of journalism and writing experience, but she doesn’t consider writing her career. She identifies more as a teacher and mentor. She says that writing “helps you develop skills for other projects in media and storytelling”, even if you don’t go on to become a professional writer. She leaves new journalists with a few gems of wisdom to start them on their media journey: “Start at the bottom and learn your craft. Learn about every job in the business- even getting coffee. You will make friends that way and experienced writers will appreciate it.” Marcotte stresses the importance of teamwork, even within a typically isolated craft- writing. “Wherever you start work, find the best writers and learn from them.”, she says. Marcotte is now helping young writers find their voice in their own academic writing by teaching students at Northern Academy of the Arts.



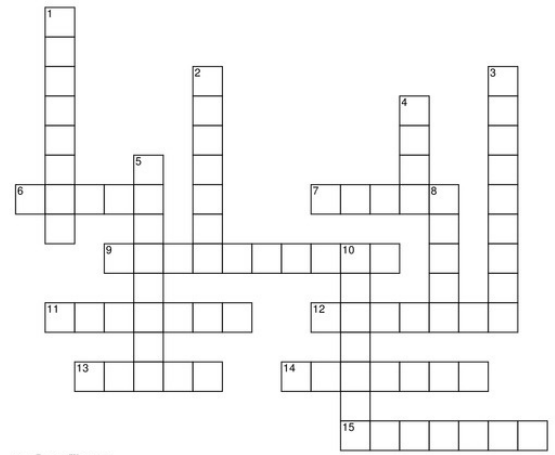
Sacia Ashe and Yvonne Marcotte during the interview. Photo By Charlie Cai (11/2/18)

funny [page]

\'fə-nē , adjective: affording light mirth and laughter.



Halloween Crossword Puzzle



www.CrosswordWaster.com

ACROSS

- 6 It is bad luck to see a _____ cat walk under a ladder.
- 7 We saw a white _____ in the graveyard.
- 9 Bring a _____ when you go trick or treating so you can see at night.
- 11 Everyone likes to dress up in a fun and scary halloween _____.
- 12 It is fun to carve a _____ for Halloween.
- 13 Trick or Treating is fun. People give out lots of yummy _____.
- 14 Halloween is always on _____ 31st.
- 15 This vampire lives in Transylvania.

DOWN

- 1 Stay safe by walking on the _____.
- 2 It is important to always go trick or treating with your _____ and family.
- 3 This holiday is celebrated on October 31st.
- 4 There are _____ flying all over in the night sky.
- 5 Watch out for all of those scary _____ bones!
- 8 _____ or Treat!
- 10 The house was _____. We heard scary noises!

WORD BANK: Bats, black, candy, costume, dracula, flashlight, friends, ghost, halloween, haunted, october, pumpkin, sidewalk, skeleton, trick.



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Events:

College Dance Performance:
Dec 1-2 in NYC
High School Performance:
Dec 21
Winter Break: Dec 22- Jan 6

EST 2017

THANKS FOR READING!

THE NORTHERN CHRONICLE

Interested in editorial writing or joining the newspaper? Contact sacia.ashe@g.feitianacademy.org for more info.